

Introduced by:

Hon. Nancy Low-Hogan, Sponsor
Hon. Jay Hood, Jr., Sponsor
Hon. Alden H. Wolfe, Sponsor
Hon. Harriet D. Cornell, Sponsor
Hon. Philip Soskin, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Toney L. Earl, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Aney Paul, Co-Sponsor
Hon. Aron B. Wieder, Co-Sponsor

Referral No. 9272
September 17, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. OF 2019 CALLING FOR A ROCKLAND'S FUTURE SUMMIT IN 2020

WHEREAS, it has become increasingly evident as a result of events that have transpired over the past two days and in recent weeks, that we are on a path in this County towards extreme division and we are about to dissolve into a pool of permanent separation, disintegration and hatred; and

WHEREAS, leadership will be required to lead our County in a way that will propel us forward – towards solutions, rather than roadblocks; towards communication, rather than rantings; towards peace rather than fighting; and

WHEREAS, how we got here is not so much the issue now as, where are we headed; and

WHEREAS, many of the residents of our County are concerned that overdevelopment threatens the sustainability and character of our communities; and

WHEREAS, anti-Semitism is a major concern of many of the residents of our County; and in today's climate hatred, racism and anti-Semitism have gained a foothold in political discourse; and

WHEREAS, we cannot allow hatred and disrespect to flourish unchecked, sow fear and create division; and

WHEREAS, we need to work together collaboratively and collegially to mitigate the negative impacts of development, as well as ensure that hate-mongering is not tolerated; and

WHEREAS, we need to take action now to achieve a balance in order to restore peace and a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, our County is in need of professional expertise to help facilitate communication and trust and lead us in the development of solutions; now, therefore be it

WHEREAS, The Multi-Services Committee of the Legislature has met, considered and approved this resolution by a vote of 5 Ayes, 1 Nay and 1 Absent; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Rockland County will hold a Rockland's Future Summit in Spring of 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, that attendance at the Summit will be requested by the County Executive and the Leadership of the County Legislature and extended to: the five Town Supervisors, Rockland County Schools Superintendents, local College Presidents, leaders of our Rockland Business Community, Rockland County Faith leaders, members of the local press and members of the local community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Rockland County will identify and hire a professional Community Facilitator with the expertise and experience to lead this County forward towards its bright future and who will lead the Summit meetings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Community Facilitator will be selected through a process that all major stakeholders will participate in; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all participants in the Summit will do their best to do what is in the best interests of the County of Rockland, and that collectively we will embark on this new beginning for Rockland County which will lead us into our bright future, better tomorrow than we are today; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk to the Legislature be and he is hereby authorized and directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Supervisors and Town Board Members of the Five Towns in Rockland; the Presidents of all Colleges in Rockland County; Al Samuels, President of the Rockland Business Association; the Rockland County Holocaust Museum and Study Center, the Anti-Defamation League; the American and New York chapters of the Civil Liberties Union; the Spring Valley and Nyack chapters of the NAACP; all Rockland County School District Superintendents; and such persons as the Clerk, in his discretion, may deem proper in order to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

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8/29/19
8/30/19, 9/12/19/dmg